

## **Appointment of bailiffs in Fort Bend County**

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HB 2825 by Tallas (Brown)

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DIGEST:	HB 2825 would have required the judges of the district courts and county courts-at-law having jurisdiction in Fort Bend County to each appoint a bailiff. The local administrative district judge of Fort Bend County would have been required to appoint an additional bailiff to serve as a supervising bailiff of all the bailiffs of the county.
GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:	<p>"This bill would require that the district and county court-at-law judges in Fort Bend County each appoint a bailiff who would work for the judge but would be peace officers commissioned by the sheriff of the county. This would remove the sheriff's authority over the bailiffs while leaving him with full responsibility for their actions.</p> <p>"Existing state law does not determine how a county provides bailiffs for its courts. It has remained a local matter. This bill would dictate to Fort Bend County how these bailiffs would be employed. I believe this is best left to the judgment of the local officials involved."</p>
RESPONSE:	Rep. Jim Tallas, the author of HB 2825, said: "It is my understanding that the Governor's veto message stated local matters, such as HB 2825, should be resolved by the County Commissioners Court. While this may be the case, it could not be resolved, and I was asked to file the bill, which I did. This has turned into a partisan matter with the County Court of Record Judges and the District Judges on one side and the Sheriff and County Commissioners on the other. I determined that the Judges have a legitimate complaint and should have personal supervision of their bailiffs and the bailiff should be experienced. Evidently the governor felt differently."
NOTES:	HB 2825 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a <i>Daily Floor Report</i> .